

THE BEACON



Nebraska Emergency Management Agency

JUNE 2005



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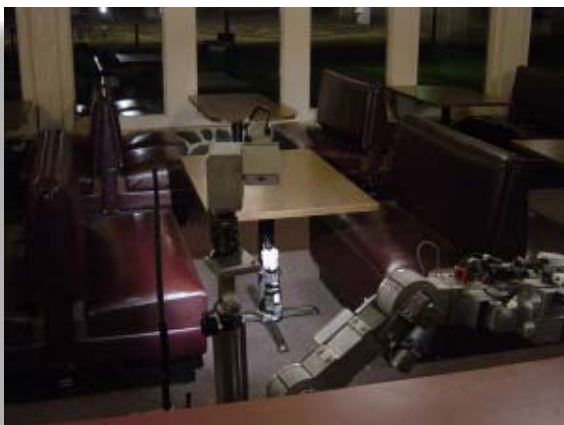
OMAHA, DOUGLAS COUNTY CONDUCT “OPERATION SECURE METRO” FULL-SCALE EXERCISE



The exercise kicks off...



As a result of the chlorine gas release, decontamination facilities went up quickly near the incident.



Parts of the scenario involved improvised explosive devices in multiple locations. Here the bomb robot examines a device.

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STATE OF NEBRASKA HOMELAND SECURITY PROGRAM IS FOCUS OF TOP-LEVEL MEET

On May 23rd, the Governor's Homeland Security Policy Group met in Lincoln with members of the newly formed Nebraska Senior Advisory Group for Homeland Security. The Senior Advisory Group was formed under mandates from DHS in the 2005 State Homeland Security Grant Program. Members of the newly formed advisory group come from State agencies involved in homeland security activities which includes fire, law enforcement, agriculture, environmental quality, game and parks, insurance, health and human services as well as representatives of the newly formed urban area security initiative.

The day's meeting agenda included numerous reports updating the Policy Group and the Lt. Governor on activities that had been conducted in support of overall state activities. ICF Consultants and the NEMA exercising and training staff presented an after action report on the exercising activities that had been undertaken over the past 2 years in support of State and local jurisdictions. In attendance were representatives of Red Willow, Scottsbluff, Gage, Cherry counties, as well as Region 23; these entities had all received assistance with exercising plans in support of emergency management and homeland security activities.

Other reports during the meeting comprised a State Communications update, DHS grant program status, UNMC report, HHSS program update, a presentation on the current capabilities of the Nebraska Military Department, a report from the UASI working group in Omaha and individual State Agency reports on the current status of their programs.

Also in attendance from DHS was Mr. Brady O'Hanlon, our State's training and exercising coordinator, who gave an up-

date on National Perspective and future direction of Homeland Security.

A part of the NEMA presentation centered upon activities being undertaken as a result of

HSPD's 5 and 8. The Exercise and Planning Workshop being held July 13th and 14th in North Platte will present guidance to attendees on how the State program is being adapted to integrate into HSPD's 5 and 8 and the expectations of local jurisdictions to participate in the joint State/Federal program.

As always, the State homeland security program is successful only because of the hard work and dedication exhibited at the local level each and every day by local emergency management directors and their staffs and volunteers. We at the State level consistently hear from our peers that Nebraska has done something right by asking for and receiving the support at the local emergency management level to base our program. To each and every one of you, Thanks.



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FEDERAL DISASTER ASSISTANCE RECIPIENTS MEET WITH STATE, FEMA REPS FOR INSTRUCTIONS

County and local officials and emergency management representatives met in Grand Island on Friday, July 1 for a briefing from state and federal officials on the processes and procedures involved in receiving aid for damage sustained in the storms of May 11-16.

The incident, which caused damages in eleven Nebraska Counties, received a federal disaster declaration, FEMA-1590-DR-NE. President Bush signed the declaration on June 23.

The Applicant Briefing was designed to provide applicants for Public Assistance funds with the information needed to work through the application process. Representatives of the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and the Federal Emergency Manage-



The Applicant Briefing drew a full house.

In addition, Governor Heineman announced the approval of \$369,000 in Emergency Disaster Assistance grant funds to help homeowners affected by the sever storms. The funding comes from the Nebraska Department of Economic Development's Affordable Housing Program and is being distributed to the Housing Development Corporation (HDC) of Hastings.

These funds will help qualified homeowners in Hall and Adams counties. Hundreds of homes in Grand Island, Hastings, Kenesaw and Wood River were damaged by the storms. The Federal Disaster Declaration included designation of Public Assistance categories A-G for the counties of Adams, Buffalo, Fillmore, Frontier, Hall, Hamilton, Howard, Kearney, Merrick, Seward and York. Levels for Individual Assistance did not rise to the requirements for federal assistance.



Attendees received individual attention for paperwork.

ment Agency (FEMA) worked with the applicants to complete Requests for Public Assistance (RPAs).

Beginning on May 11 and continuing through May 12, 2005 a sever storm system moved through south-central Nebraska, bringing hail, torrential rains and strong winds. According to the High Plains Regional Climate Center, rainfall total in Adams and Hall counties reached historical 100-year levels.

On May 12, an Emergency Declaration was signed by Nebraska Governor Dave Heineman, and on May 27 the Governor requested a major disaster declaration.



The media keeps a close eye on the process.

NEMA NIMS TRAINERS SWEEP OUTSTATE NEBRASKA

Spreading the Incident Management System word

Three Exercise Training Officers hit the road in June to conduct five training sessions on the new National Incident Management System (NIMS).

NIMS was developed to provide a system that will help emergency managers and responders from different jurisdictions and disciplines work together more effectively to handle emergencies and disasters.

Beginning on the 14th, Tonya Smith, Nikki Weber and DeWayne Morrow kicked off the swing in

Valentine. There were two sessions conducted in Valentine, with a great turnout of elected county officials. On the 15th the group traveled to Alliance and Crawford to present the program to volunteer firefighters and emergency managers from surrounding counties.

On the 16th it was on to Sydney, where the team conducted one training, hosting a record 98 participants. That session attracted people from five counties.

When NIMS is adopted and used nationwide it will form a standardized, unified framework for incident management within which government and private entities at all levels can work together effectively. NIMS provides a set of standardized organizational structures, such as the Incident Command System, and standardized processes, procedures and systems. These processes and procedures are designed to improve interoperability among jurisdictions and disciplines in various areas - command and management, resource management, training and communications.

The NIMS training sessions covered between three and three and a half hours each, and addressed questions and concerns of volunteers and staff alike.

